

FACT SHEET



**Ralston Site
Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

November 1999

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Ralston Superfund site, 228 Blairs Ferry Road, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The ROD describes EPA's selected remedy to address soil and ground water contamination found at the site.

RECORD OF DECISION

In July 1999, EPA proposed a remedy to address contaminated soil and ground water at the Ralston site. The public was asked to comment on the proposed remedy. EPA held a public meeting in Cedar Rapids on July 6, 1999, to discuss the proposed remedy. All comments received during the 30-day public comment period were considered by EPA in making a final decision on the remedy. EPA also prepared responses to all comments received during the public comment period. EPA's selected remedy for the site, which meets the requirements for overall protection of human health and the environment, consists of the following:

- ◆ Maintaining the cap over the disposal area and the work done to stabilize the bank of Dry Run Creek.
- ◆ Monitored natural attenuation of ground water. Natural attenuation refers to the naturally occurring process in the environment that results in a decrease in the concentration of contaminants. It appears that subsurface conditions are favorable for natural attenuation to occur at the Ralston site. Ground water will be monitored periodically to ensure the concentration of contaminants is reduced below health-based levels outside the disposal area.
- ◆ Continued ownership of the fenced-in area, including the former disposal area, by Rockwell International (Rockwell). The fence will remain and be maintained to restrict access.
- ◆ Continued listing of the site on Iowa's Registry of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substance Disposal sites. This listing requires written approval of the director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources prior to any substantial change in the use of the listed site. Written approval is also required to sell, convey, or transfer title of the listed site.

◆Designating a one-mile area surrounding the site as a protected source area. This restricts the installation of ground water wells in the designated area without prior approval by state authorities.

This remedy will allow hazardous substances to remain on the site above levels which allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. Consequently, a review will be conducted within five years after the remedial action is initiated, and subsequently at five-year intervals, to ensure that the remedy continues to provide adequate protection of human health and the environment.

SITE BACKGROUND

From 1956 to the mid-1960s, Rockwell operated an industrial landfill at the 1½ acre site. Rockwell buried and/or disposed of solvents, paint sludge, refuse and drums containing concrete-encapsulated cyanide salts.

In December 1991, Rockwell signed an agreement with EPA to investigate the extent of soil and ground water contamination at the site and identify alternatives to address the contamination. While this investigation was under way, Rockwell entered into another agreement with EPA to conduct removal actions that would accelerate the cleanup of the source area and the shallow ground water. The removal actions included capping of the former disposal area, stabilizing the bank of Dry Run Creek to prevent erosion at the site, operating a dual vapor extraction and treatment system that removed contaminants in the source area, and extracting and treating shallow ground water located north of Dry Run Creek. The primary contaminant at the site is trichloroethylene, a chemical commonly used as a degreasing agent. 1,2-Dichloroethylene and vinyl chloride are also present at the site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The ROD, the transcript from the public meeting held July 6, 1999, and EPA's response to the comments received during the public comment period, are available for public review, along with other site-related documents, at the following information repositories during normal business hours:

Cedar Rapids Public Library
500 1st Street, S.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need additional information about this site, please contact:

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